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A
Very new PAMPHLET *indeed!*

BEING THE
TRUTH:
ADDRESSED TO
THE PEOPLE AT LARGE.

CONTAINING
SOME STRICTURES ON THE
ENGLISH JACOBINS,
AND
THE EVIDENCE OF
LORD M'CARTNEY, and Others,
Before the HOUSE of LORDS,
RESPECTING
The SLAVE TRADE.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1793.

1868

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The Trustees of the British Museum have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £1000 from the Government of India, for the purchase of the manuscript of the 'History of the British Museum' by the late Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart. The said manuscript is now deposited in the Library of the British Museum, and is open to the inspection of all persons who may be desirous of consulting it.

TRUTHS, &c.

SOME time since, in an Appeal to the People, I endeavour-
ed to place in its true light the long agitated question re-
specting the SLAVE TRADE; but *Falsehood* had then so
clouded the public mind, that the rays of Truth penetrated
but to few. At this juncture, when the Witnesses brought
forward by the Friends of the Abolition are committed to
take their trial for Perjury, a few plain Facts may perhaps
meet with more general attention.

The real Motives of the attack on the Commerce of this
Country may be seen through, and the most violent Partis-
zans of the Abolition be brought to acknowledge their Errors,
if Fanaticism and the Spirit of Party, have not rendered them
callous to every impression of Candour and Justice.

To relinquish then at once the JACOBINS of ENGLAND,
the *Wilberforces*, the *Coopers*, the *Paines*, and the *Clarksons*,
the dupes who are flattered into mischief, and those of a
far different description, who direct their motions; I shall

address myself to an honest and enlightened Public, and as briefly as possible bring to view the leading features of this momentous controversy, leaving it to Common Sense and Humanity to decide on its merits.

When it was first thought necessary to inquire concerning the state of the *Slave Trade*, as it related to the general Commerce of this Kingdom, as well as into the state of the Blacks in their own Country, and their subsequent treatment in the West Indies, no information was given on Oath, either before the House of Commons, or before the Lords of the Committee of Council. This circumstance, though known in the Metropolis, the *Old Jewry Society* carefully concealed from the People at large, and imposed garbled and mutilated stories on the Public, as being the real and legal Evidence delivered before one branch of the Legislature.— The Characters of their Witnesses too, were with equal care concealed, for the promoters of the Abolition knew, that where no Oath was administered, the credibility of the Evidence must rest *solely* on the character of the witness; and they felt how little credit would be given to discarded Servants, starving Surgeons, Sailors taken drunk from the Stews, or Parsons convicted of Adultery, when opposed to such characters as Lord Rodney, Admiral Barrington, Governor Miles, Governor Weuves, and a long list of HONEST, JUST, and HONOURABLE MEN, all flatly contradicting the fabricated tales of Murder, Treachery, and Cruelty, with which their hirelings had so long deluded the public ear.

It may be asked, By what motives the promoters of the Abolition have been actuated? the answer is plain, Fanaticism and False Philosophy had exalted their imagination, and obscured their reason; and in what they affected to call a Reform in the Constitution, they saw the means of establishing such a Government as best suited their wild ephemeral theory. That I am justified in classing the pro-

moters of the Abolition and the Republicans together, Mr. COOPER's conduct in the North, and in the Society calling itself, *Friends of the People*, will sufficiently declare.

To effect this Reform, it was necessary the enthusiasm excited among the people should be brought to direct the acts of the Legislature. In France, their fellow reformers put arms into the hands of the Mob, and dictated the measures of the National Assembly. It was here thought that Petitions, seemingly the real voice of the country, might have an equal effect, and they determined to make the first essay of their force in an attack upon the West India Planters: they considered that, unrepresented in Parliament, they were less capable of defence, and their property being cultivated by Slaves, they were more obnoxious to popular clamour. An artful jingle on the words *Liberty* and *Slavery*, was well calculated to create a ferment in the minds of a generous people, as abhorrent of the one as devoted to the other—but, in this instance, led away entirely by sound, for all that Lord RODNEY, Admiral BARRINGTON, &c. &c. had declared upon their word, respecting the well-being of the Negroes, has been positively sworn to by Lord MACARTNEY, and other Gentlemen of the fairest reputation. What a contrast is here! The Promoters of the Abolition, it is true, brought into a Court of Justice a Surgeon out of practice, and a mutinous Sailor, to confirm by oath their tales of cruelty; and what was the event? BOTH THE SURGEON AND THE SAILOR ARE COMMITTED TO TAKE THEIR TRIAL FOR PERJURY.

This must in some degree open the eyes of the People to the real character of the chief Abolitionists: nor will the eagerness with which they have pushed forward to their desired goal, fail of its effect: elevated by the success of surreptitious Petitions, they vainly thought their wild dreams, of more than republican equality, were on the point of being

realized, and they fondly imagined a few more, no matter by whom signed or how obtained, would reduce this Country to the situation of France, *so long their envy, their boast, and their model.*

Luckily however, these **SELF-NAMED Friends of the People**, prematurely avowed their intentions of continuing to direct the measures of Parliament, by the force of Clamour in the guise of Petitions; but though positive untruths and misrepresented facts had persuaded many that the Africans in our Colonies were in a state of wretchedness and want, it was in vain they endeavoured to deceive the People, as to their own situation: they found it impossible to make Men avow their misery, who enjoyed every comfort of life; or force those to petition for a change in their condition, who every hour experienced the blessings of our glorious Constitution.

Convinced of the baneful projects of the Society, and ashamed of having ever appeared to countenance its Principles, the five most respectable Members retired and forsook with indignation a set of men, whose views a wise PROCLAMATION has exposed to public censure and contempt.

Having slightly touched on the real motives which occasioned such a general outcry against our Countrymen in the West Indies, and said sufficient to show what is the character of those the most forward in the Cause of the Abolition, I shall proceed to point out on what grounds the Planters lay claim to a continuance of the Slave Trade, and prove from what has already been given on Oath before the Supreme Court of this Country, that it is as little inimical to the general interests of Humanity, as it is of absolute necessity to the very existence of the Colonies, and to the preservation of the Revenue and Manufactures in their present flourishing state.

The Charters under which the Planters cultivate their Property, have some of them been granted one hundred and thirty years ago; from that period to very late in the present Reign, frequent Acts of the Legislature, no less than 23 in number, have given every possible encouragement, and held out every inducement to the cultivation of the Colonies, *by the only possible means*—the importation of Negro Slaves from Africa: it is the benefit of this Faith, so repeatedly pledged, the Planters now claim: They hope that no mistaken and innovating spirit shall drive to ruin and destruction so many thousands of British Subjects, against whom no Crime is alledged, except an implicit reliance on the solemn engagements of Parliament.

But it is not the immense loss of seventy millions sterling, which the Planters would ultimately sustain, that alone is to be considered: The West India Trade employs three hundred thousand Ton of Shipping, and twenty-five thousand Sailors; and being connected with the Fisheries necessary for the support of the Negroes, and likewise with the African Trade, it may fairly be esteemed an object of the first magnitude to the Navy of this country. And what is to be put in opposition to this faith, so solemnly and repeatedly pledged, to the immense advantages derived to our Revenue, Manufactures and Navy? What can warrant a dereliction from such solemn assurances, and the injury such important interests must suffer?—A grievance of so intolerable a nature, a wickedness of such an enormous magnitude, that one would think our Ancestors, if they had the common sense and feelings and justice of men, must have revolted at, as it is suggested every reasonable and virtuous person ought to do at this day. But it will appear there is no grievance but in the imagination of the weak, and that the wickedness alone exists in the hearts of the designing.

Were the tales to which the *Old Jewry Society* have given currency, founded in fact, I should be tempted to think with some of the misled enthusiasts, that much ought to be risked to get rid of the Slave Trade. But it will be proved, that the Negroes are brought from want to plenty, from tyranny to gentle servitude, from nakedness to comfortable clothing, and from a state where they have no property, even in their lives, to one where their property and their lives are under the strong and sacred protection of the law; that on the passage from their own country to ours (though many of them are convicts) they are not only better off than our convicts going to Botany Bay, but than even our Soldiers in a Transport: a Soldier being allowed only fourteen inches for himself and his accoutrements, and a Negro allowed sixteen, with no such incumbrances.

I shall now proceed to a summary of the Evidence given on oath before the House of Lords, to the truth of which, I can without scruple pledge myself, having regularly each day on my return home committed it to paper.

Lord MACARTNEY, (sworn)

Declares he thinks the labouring poor in general work harder in England than the Blacks in the West Indies; and that they (the Slaves) are properly clothed, lodged, and fed.

**JOHN GRANT, Esq. late CHIEF JUSTICE of JAMAICA,
(being sworn)**

Declared he had lived in Jamaica twenty-one years; that the Negroes are well fed and clothed; that their superabundance of food is such, that the two great Towns of Spanish Town and Kingston are by them supplied with pork, poultry, and vegetables, which they sell for their own emolument:

He declares his opinion, that the number of Slaves sufficient to cultivate the Island, can not be kept up without fresh importations; * that the Abolition of the Slave Trade must soon involve the small Planters in ruin, who will not be able to carry on their Estates, or pay their Creditors; that this will diminish, and finally destroy the cultivation, lessen the number of White Inhabitants, and by weakening the Militia, encrease the dangers of those that remain, rendering the Blacks more disposed to revolt, by cutting off all prospect of assistance in their labour.

The next Witness was

LEWIS CUTHBERT, *Esq.* PROVOST MARSHAL of the ISLAND of JAMAICA,

Who had been an Inhabitant of that Island above twenty years; who being sworn, said he could confidently declare, that the Negroes are in general treated with great humanity; that when ever any Master deviated from this general rule (which was very uncommon), he was held in detestation by the whole community; that when a Manager, who might in other respects perfectly understand his business, used unnecessary severity, it was a sufficient reason for his discharge, and that he NEVER KNEW ONE INSTANCE OF NEGROES BEING OVER-WORKED.—That Slaves acquire property, and dispose of it at pleasure, frequently supplying, at the market price, the table of their masters; nor was there any example of an invasion of this right of property.

He was of opinion, that should the Abolition take place, there must be an end of small Settlers, who form the Militia, (a great defence of the Island against internal troubles or external attack); for that no European will risk his life in those climates, merely for a paltry salary, when by an Abo-

* In this the manufacture of Sugar does but resemble all other manufactures, who draw their workmen from the Country, as the Planters do theirs from Africa.

litior of the Slave Trade he shall be prevented laying out his earnings in Negroes, and lose all prospect of forming a Settlement.

SIMON TAYLOR, Esq.

Being called and sworn, declared the Slaves in our Islands to be in a very comfortable state, protected in their property, and trading in Live Stock to a very considerable amount. He confirmed Mr. CUTHBERT's opinion respecting the effect the Abolition must have in ruining the Militia, and thereby very much endangering the Island;

Mr. JOSEPH FAYRAN

Being sworn, was desired to say what he knew of the nature of the African Slave Trade, and of the situation of the Blacks in Africa. Said he had been up the Country to *Ahema*, about 100 miles. On his arrival, after a variety of savage ceremonies, he was conducted to the King's Palace: going through the Market-place, he saw two human bodies; not, he believes, the bodies of malefactors, hung up by the heels; on which he enquired the cause, he was told they were for the Market Vultures, those birds being then in the act of feeding on their entrails, and he was also told, the birds had constantly a fresh supply of human food, as one body was consumed, another being put in its place.

Over the King's door, and the doors of the Grandees, were a vast number of human heads, on which birds of prey were feeding. The wall of the King's Palace, which was two miles in circumference, was ornamented with human heads, at about nine or ten inches asunder. In the town he saw many large piles of human heads, of men that had been at different periods sacrificed at the Annual Feast, when the King sends Slaves to serve his Ancestors in the next world.

He was detained a long while in the Town, on account of the King being at War, as no Trade is carried on during War. He added, that War in all the places in which he had been, was materially detrimental to the Slave Trade—the Prisoners of War taken whilst he was there, were mostly killed, and their heads sent to the King of DANOMBY.

Being prevented by the War then carrying on from purchasing Slaves, he returned to Aboma in about eight months, which was actually the time of year the King made his accustomed Sacrifice of Human Victims to the Manes of his Ancestors; and FIVE HUNDRED MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, WERE PUT TO DEATH ON THE OCCASION, their heads were severed from their bodies, and a string was tied to one leg, and the trunk was trailed along the ground, whilst the people accompanied them dancing, singing, and laughing. The blood of these wretched victims to superstition and tyranny, was mixed with mud, to make the walls of a Temple to be dedicated to the late King.

This Witness declares also, that from observation and enquiry, he is convinced the Slave Trade preserves many lives that would otherwise be forfeited to increase the splendour of the Annual Massacre; that frequently the Slaves purchased by him have expressed their joy on the occasion, and said it was well for them he had bought them, or their heads would have been taken off. He had actually once agreed for seventeen Slaves, but not taking them away at the time, he found them the next day put to death by order of the King, his Fetishman, or High Priest, having told him a Sacrifice was immediately necessary. The King promised him seventeen others.

JOHN BARNES, Esq.

Who was Governor at Senegal, being sworn, declared the Slave Trade to be universal throughout Africa, and that it

seemed to be coeval with society itself in those Countries ; that in a particular Country called *Jollof*, the language of which he understood perfectly, the very name of *free man* implies only a *Master of Slaves* ; that men become Slaves as a punishment for crimes, frequently surrender their liberty for protection, and more frequently for food ; that many are condemned for witchcraft, a crime which involves the whole family in slavery, a punishment inflicted on this crime from time immemorial ; *but that in those Countries, where we have the most intercourse, the number condemned for this crime is infinitely less than in those parts not civilized by commerce with Europe.*

Prisoners of war are seldom sold for Slaves ; the immediate objects of resentment are generally put to death on these occasions ; others are allowed to redeem themselves. He has always understood, that the trade is not so brisk during a war as in times of peace, but this he only speaks from the information of others, *as during the many years he was in Africa, whether as Governor of Senegal, or during the time he was up the Country, no war was carried on in those kingdoms he inhabited **.

That he is confident crimes are not imputed for the purpose of making Slaves, nor do Princes break up their villages and seize their subjects to sell them as Slaves : he is confident no such thing exists on the Continent of Africa, *and this he begs to declare under the caution of his oath.*

On being asked the condition of a Slave in Africa, he answered, that in general it was the most deplorable that we can conceive a human creature to be subject to ; they have no security for their persons, they have no security for their property, they are altogether at the will, and subject to the humour of a master who is not amenable to any law

* A positive proof, Europe is not supplied by prisoners taken in war.

for the treatment of them; and who may kill them at pleasure, except the Slaves immediately about his person, or who are suckling his children; these, in case of a crime imputed to them, are intitled to a sort of hearing before their Fellow-slaves.

Mr. BARNES, on being farther questioned, said he had been for months in the Island of *Barbadoes*, of *Antigua*, and *Jamaica*, and in the French Islands of *Martinique* and *Gnadaloupe*, and he thinks the most abject state of Slavery in those Islands is an infinitely more desirable condition than that of the best and most favoured Slave in Africa; and that from his knowledge of the cruelty and barbarity of Africa at large, he is convinced the purposes of Humanity could not be so effectually answered in any other way as by a continuance of the Slave Trade.

As to the effect the Abolition would have on Commerce, he said the town of *Liverpool*, which he has known forty years, employs six or seven millions sterling in this trade, and the trade employs from 140 to 150 sail of ships; should it be abolished, six or seven ships would be sufficient to bring home all the dying wood, ivory, and bees wax, the only merchandize imported from the Slave Coast. That the Abolition of the Slave Trade must materially prejudice the general Interest of the country, not only in the African Trade simply in itself, but in almost every branch of our Commerce, involved in it.

Governor BARNES made four different voyages from Africa to the West Indies, each time in ships with Slaves on board; and says, the Slaves were treated with humane attention, well nourished, and every possible care taken of them when sick. That in general they were contented and cheerful on board. That on their arrival in the West Indies, they expressed great pleasure on seeing so many of their own colour, and the nature of their employment.

MR. BARNES DECLARED, THAT HE HAS NO CONCERN DIRECTLY, OR INDIRECTLY, WITH THE SLAVE TRADE OR THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

Mr. THOMAS SHARPLESS.

Being sworn, declared he was in Africa from the year 1783 to 1789: he never knew an instance of Princes breaking up villages for the purpose of taking the Inhabitants of those villages, and reducing them to slavery. He never knew an instance of persons being arbitrarily seized and compelled to become Slaves. He never knew an instance of kidnapping of any kind.

Being asked if Wars were made for the purpose of procuring Slaves, he answered, No; Wars are a check to the Trade, and in two Towns on the River Gambia, he had an opportunity of experiencing the hurt that War occasioned, stopping up the passage of Slaves from the Interior Country.

He never heard of Slaves being procured by fraud or violence, and brought for sale, and he is persuaded any person attempting such a thing, would be seized and sold himself.—From what he has seen of the Slaves in Africa, their change of Masters is an advantage to them; and he ne-

* The declaration Mr. Lons makes in his History, of the Imported Negroes causing a Rebellion in Jamaica, and on which Mr. GIBSON lays so much stress, as being of itself sufficient cause for an Abolition of the Trade, is a corroborative proof of what Mr. HANNA here asserts, for the Negroes imported that year, were not as usual people born Slaves, or those who for crimes had forfeited their liberty, and submitted patiently to the Justice of their Sentence, but Prisoners of War; nay more, Prisoners of War obtained by treachery (a circumstance which, when Mr. Lons published his History, had not reached his knowledge); hence their impatience under Slavery, and hence the Rebellion. The Prince of those People fell into the hands of Mr. FRANKLYN, who, as soon as he was made acquainted with the circumstances of his capture, immediately gave him his freedom.

